

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 11 of 1876.]

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 11th March 1876.

THE *Suhrid*, of the 29th February, asks Government to use effective means for the suppression of the crime of cattle-poisoning, which prevails so fearfully at the present time. It is chiefly practised by the *moochees*, for the sake of the hides of the animals. There are few places in the country where kine have not been lost in this way; and there is indeed some reason to fear that, if this crime be allowed to prevail much longer, in a few years, we shall be left without a most useful domestic animal which affords one of the principal means of our subsistence.

SUHRID,
February 29th 1876.

2. The same paper, in stating his own opinion of his countrymen and the results of the civilization of the West, thinks, that it has not been an unmixed good to India. It has a dark as well as a bright side. "Do not think that we are the lowest of all the races in this world. Not so: we are becoming greater than many nations in several respects, and equal to some in others. When we go to a meeting or association, we are able to put down many by our ready fluency and loud speech. We are able to create quite a sensation in large halls by observations on the progress of the country. We have surpassed several nations in seeking for situations, spending our lives in service, and transmitting this habit from generation to generation. Besides these, there is another thing in which we excel all others, viz., in running away. No one will be able to excel us in this respect. We are gradually becoming peaceful in our habits. We retire from disputes, assaults, quarrels and rash acts. We are gradually becoming men of wonderful dispositions. For the sake of securing some trifling interest, or needlessly ruining that of another, we go to the courts of justice, and there, meeting with success by means of fraud and artifices, defiantly proclaim our triumph on all sides. For a sum of Rs. 5, or two or four cottahs of land, we are never tired of going to the law courts. While, if some two men were to come and stand before our house, we would forthwith run away by the back door, leaving all our property to their mercy. It would be no exaggeration to say that we have learnt the above habits and morals from the civilization of the West.

In fact, when the thought comes across our minds whether the "Civilization of the West is beneficial or injurious to us," we feel both sorrow and disappointment. For what were we, and what have we become?"

3. The same paper fears that the costly presents, given by the Native Princes of India to the Prince of Wales, will, instead of benefiting India, be a means of doing considerable mischief. They will give the British nation an erroneous impression regarding the wealth of this country; and

SUHRID.

SUHRID.

such an impression produced in the minds of a nation, already avaricious and jealous, will probably induce them to search out new means of draining her of this supposed wealth. So that, it seems to us, the making of presents to the Prince was not a judicious act. Instead of expensive articles, the natives of India should have offered him only their loyalty and devotion.

SÁDHARANI,
February 27th, 1876.

4. The *Sádháraní*, of the 27th February, makes the following observations in an editorial on the "British Administration":—We fully appreciate the benefits of British rule, and shall not even for a moment cease to regard our rulers with love and respect. But then, along with this, we have an ardent desire to realize for ourselves an independent national existence, and do not like the idea of being absorbed into the English nation. We highly prize the liberty we now enjoy; and we gave proofs of our feelings by our loyal and costly reception of the Prince. And whatever may be said at times, we shall continue to be loyal to the British Government so long as it treats us as it has hitherto done, and convinces us that the taxes we pay are expended, after meeting the necessary expenses of Government, for our benefit.

SÁPTAHIK SAMACHAR,
February 29th, 1876.

5. The *Sáptahik Samáchár*, of the 29th February, dwells in a lengthy editorial on the evil consequences accruing to the public from the circumstance, that in Calcutta prostitutes are allowed to live wherever they please. Almost everywhere in the metropolis, near the College, the Bráhma Samáj, the Hindu temples, on both sides of the public streets, and by the sides of houses inhabited by respectable people, there is presented the scandalous spectacle of women making indecent gestures and singing obscene songs at all hours of the day. It is idle to hope, as is done by some, that the crime of prostitution will altogether disappear from society in time, or that the enforcement of Act XIV of 1868 will effectually put a stop to it. However disagreeable it may be, it is, and will continue to be, a necessary and unavoidable evil. It therefore behoves the authorities to assign a particular quarter, outside the city, to the "unfortunates;" and thus save the citizens from what must be always an intolerable nuisance to them.

SÁPTAHIK SAMACHAR.

6. The same paper is gratified to observe that the Lieutenant-Governor has given great encouragement to the study of the vernaculars by his recent order that, henceforth no candidates, without a certificate of having passed the vernacular scholarship examination, will be allowed any scholarship in the entrance examination of the University. This will lead the native youth to study the much-neglected vernaculars.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
March 1st, 1876.

7. The *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 1st March, directs the attention of Government to the desirability of granting an increase of salary to the over-worked, though low paid, officers of the English Department of the district and sub-divisional courts. They are required to do an excessive amount of difficult work of a responsible character; and it is no wonder that, owing to their extremely low pay, they are sometimes tempted to take bribes. Government is asked to attend to the matter.

BHÁRAT MIHIR,
March 1st, 1876.

8. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 1st March, deplores the absence of any strong public opinion in this country, and ascribes to it most of the grievances of the people. The reason why any public opinion does not exist is that—(1) there was no room for its growth, the country having enjoyed a good administration, at least under its Hindu kings; (2) that there has been no unity among the different races which inhabit India; and (3) a system of general and liberal education was not known in the country. Under the

favorable auspices of the British rule, however, a public opinion is gradually growing up ; and this fact has been made prominent more than once. The editor ardently hopes that it will continually improve in strength and have a perceptible influence on the administration. To foster it and extend its influence, it is suggested that an association should be established in every district in Bengal, where all administrative measures of any importance should be brought up for discussion.

9. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the indifference shown by Government to the teachers of the zillah schools in the matter of their salary and promotion. The subject should receive the attention of the authorities.

10. The *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 2nd March, observes that the Queen's intention to assume a new title, viz., the "Empress of India," may be supposed to have some connection with the "Native Coinage Bill" recently introduced into the Indian Legislative Council. From the very first of their settlement in India as a body of merchants, down to the present time, when they are the paramount power in this country, the British have been singularly fortunate in every instance ; and they have at last come to perceive that, by assuming the title once borne by the Emperors of Delhi, the Queen will enlist on the side of the British Government all that respect and devotion, which were at one time paid to their Mahomedan rulers. For though the power of Government in India is far greater than what was once possessed by the Mogul Emperors, still it seems to be imagined that a foreign Government does not generally succeed in winning that affection from its subjects, which is enjoyed by a ruler whose home is in the country he rules. Now, the Native Coinage Bill, if passed into law, will take away one of the last remaining proofs of the independence of the Native Princes—the power of coining money—and thus impart significance to the title proposed for the Queen. It is to be observed that the British Government is gradually depriving the Native Princes of all their independence ; and it is to be feared that ultimately they will be reduced to the rank of mere zemindars.

11. The same paper calls upon his countrymen to memorialize Government on the Mofussil Municipalities Bill. It has several defects, among which the excessive power given to the Magistrates and Commissioners, requiring municipalities to bear the cost, which was so long borne by Government, of maintaining schools, dispensaries, &c., and leaving it in the power of the Commissioners to expend the funds of one municipality for the good of another, are such as should call for protest from the rate-payers. Under this law, the Commissioners will have very little independence, over-ruled, as they will doubtless be, by the all-powerful Magistrates and the members appointed by Government. Then again the resolutions of the Commissioners may be at any moment upset by the Divisional Commissioner or the Lieutenant-Governor, and the ratepayers should protest against this also. The Mofussil Municipalities Bill, if passed, will press heavily on the inhabitants of the mofussil, already groaning under the burden of taxation. Municipalites have become to Government one of the means of wringing out the income of the people. By the imposition of the road cess, Government threw on our shoulders the cost of a large portion of the public works ; and now, by this Bill, it is proposed to lay on us the charge of keeping up schools and dispensaries.

12. The *Burdwan Pracháriká*, of the 3rd March, remarks that most of those appointed as Bench Magistrates in Burdwan are ignorant and illiterate

BHABAT MIHIE,
March 1st, 1878.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
March 2nd, 1878.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

BURDWAN
PRACHARIKA,
March 3rd, 1878.

men, who are totally unfit for judicial work. The appointment should be conferred only on those who deserve it.

BURDWAN
PRACHARIKA,
March 3rd, 1876.

13. The same paper observes that there is a frequent miscarriage of justice in the mofussil, owing to the arbitrariness of the officers engaged in judicial work, and to their eagerness to support each other even when convinced of the error committed. Appeals and motions have become fruitless in this way, till the people have lost all confidence in the impartiality of the judicial courts. It is now generally believed that the High Court is the only tribunal where law is correctly interpreted and justice administered. As a rule, the District Magistrate upholds the decision of his Deputies, and the District Judge that of the former. These remarks are prompted by a recent case in Burdwan, in which the District Magistrate, and then the Judge, did nothing to repair the injustice done to a party in a suit tried in the first instance by the Deputy Magistrate, Babu Bagalánanda Mukhopádhyáya.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
March 3rd, 1876.

14. The *Education Gazette*, of the 3rd March, is not at all sorry at the promulgation by Government of the recent ordinance regarding dramatic performances. Considering the abnormal development of a worthless dramatic literature, there is no reason for dissatisfaction at this measure of Government.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
March 6th, 1876.

15. The *Bhárat Sangskárák*, of the 3rd March, observes that public opinion is singularly strong in condemning the Calcutta Municipalities Bill; and that it will be really difficult for Government to reconcile, as it has sought to do, the power of self-government asked by the people, with the absolute control of affairs which it wants to reserve in its own hands. It seems to be apprehended that, in the event of the municipality being vested with full powers, its acts will generally be opposed to the views of Government. But why is this suspicion regarding the loyalty of the rate-payers? It will not be difficult for Government to check the Justices at any moment by fresh legislation, should they prove refractory. As it is, Government has kept sufficient power in its own hands. But why interfere in details? It is hard to believe that, merely out of deference to the views of a subordinate (Sir Stuart Hogg), Sir Richard Temple will set at defiance the strong public opinion on the subject.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK.

16. The same paper regards the recent ordinances prohibiting certain dramatic performances as a salutary check on the extreme license that was indulged in by the actors and actresses of the Native theatres. It is to be hoped that the measure will teach them to reform their ways.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK.

17. The same paper observes the following in a lengthy editorial on the "Road Cess Committee of the 24-Pergunnahs and New Roads in the Sunderbuns." The purpose for which the road cess was imposed on the country is well known. It has, however, in some instances been converted into an engine of oppression, owing to the District Road Cess Committees expending the funds for the benefit of interested individuals rather than for the public at large. Such a case has recently occurred in the 24-Pergunnahs. On pretence of doing good to the poor ryots of the Sunderbuns, the District Committee has in this case ordered the construction of an expensive road from Bárásat, near the Kulpí road, to Mahishmári plantation in the Sunderbuns, the property of the Hon'ble Babu Digambar Mitra, c.s.i. Now there was no need whatever for this costly undertaking. The existing roads, however rude they may be, are well suited to the requirements of the people for whose good the new road is being ostensibly made. There also exists facility of communication by water in these villages. The construction of the new road, under

these circumstances, will only be advantageous to the Hon'ble Baboo. If the road cess operations were managed in other districts in the way lately seen in the 24-Pergunnahs, the sooner this impost is abolished the better. It is to be observed that the local sub-divisional officer, who knows more of the matter than any member of the District Road Cess Committee, was not at all consulted herein. It is remarked, in conclusion, that instead of expending a large sum on a needless undertaking, the Road Cess Committee could do an immense deal of good to the people of the Sunderbuns and these parts by acting on the following suggestions:—(1) Thoroughfares, wide enough for beasts of burden to pass on, should be made in the Sunderbuns, connecting the several plantations with each other; (2) By widening the channel which flows from Tallygunge Canal through Magrá to Jayanagar, so as to make it navigable by boats, and by joining it with the Mantreshwar at the mouth of the Hooghly below the Sunderbuns, a great impetus will be given to the internal trade. A large income may also be expected from this source. The old Kulpi road, on which there is a large traffic, should be repaired up to Bistopore.

18. The same paper is gratified to notice that a memorial has been made to the Lieutenant-Governor, protesting against the order to Mr. J. B. Roberts to retire on his pension under the 55 years' rule. In his favor, whose fitness for work has not in the least diminished, it should certainly be relaxed.

19. A correspondent of the *Grámbártá Prakáshiká*, of the 4th March, writing from Dáhápárá, under Thana Ashanpore, in the Moorshedabad district, complains of the annual inundations of the Ganges in that village, which destroy the crops and generate epidemics. The writer asks Government to cause the construction of an embankment to prevent the recurrence of the calamity.

20. The *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 4th March, considers that the people were far happier under the rule of the East India Company than they have been since the Queen assumed the direct government of the country. The prediction of John Stuart Mill has now come to be fulfilled. There is no longer that accountability to Parliament and responsibility for good government, on the part of the Indian Viceroys, which was found in the days of the Company. No matter whether a Viceroy or a Provincial Governor has properly discharged the work of administration, he is sure to obtain the approbation of the British public, and honours on his return to his native land. Parliament manifests an extreme indifference to India and her affairs.

21. The same paper observes that the proposal of Sir Richard Temple to appoint moonsiffs in place of civil court ameens, if carried out, is likely to be greatly beneficial. But care must be taken that the appointments are conferred on really deserving men, and not on raw and inexperienced young men, whose only qualification is that they have passed the B.L. Examination of the University.

22. The same paper regrets to hear that Sir Richard Temple has made up his mind to resign, in consequence of a communication from the Viceroy on the municipal affairs of Calcutta. Such a step, if taken, will really be a matter for sorrow, and will be deeply felt by the country. Sir Richard's quiet and deliberative habits, joined to his earnest desire to benefit the natives by finding out for them new fields of employment in the cultivation of arts and manufactures, have won for him their sympathy and affection. We are sorry to observe that, in consequence of a difference of

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK,
March 3rd, 1876.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
March 4th, 1876.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
March 4th, 1876.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

opinion regarding municipal government with the rate-payers of Calcutta, Sir Richard has been subjected to a most undeserved and uncharitable criticism.

SADHARANI,
March 5th, 1876.

23. The *Sádháraní*, of the 5th March, dwells on the desirability of appointing educated and honest persons, such as moonsifs, to the post of civil court ameen. The duties of the office are of a responsible character, and, as affecting important questions of property, their due and satisfactory performance is much to be desired. The present civil court ameens are, as a class, much given to bribery and writing untrue and misleading reports.

SADHARANI.

24. The same paper directs the attention of Government to the constantly irregular and arbitrary practices prevailing in the mofussil courts, and the want of due supervision on the part of the higher authorities. The laws and circulars of Government are frequently disregarded. There are some judicial officers in the mofussil, who make it a point not to grant the public admission into the courts. It would be well if Government were to make the continuance or otherwise of a judicial officer in a particular station dependent on the local public opinion regarding him, especially of the pleaders and mooktears of the place.

DACCA PRAKASH,
March 5th, 1876.

25. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 5th March, is exceedingly gratified to notice that the Lieutenant-Governor has materially furthered the cause of Dr. Mahendra Lál Sarkár's Science Association by providing it with a local habitation. Sir Richard Temple really wishes well of the natives. This is shown by his constant and earnest efforts to help them to earn a livelihood by the cultivation of arts and manufactures. It now only remains for the Science Association Committee to be up and doing without any longer delay.

DACCA PRAKASH.

26. Adverting to a recent case tried before the local Assistant Commissioner, in which one Mr. Wilson, the assistant manager of a tea plantation in Cachar, was fined for assaulting a Deputy Inspector of Schools, the same paper asks Government to keep a sharp eye on the doings of the managers of tea plantations. They practise fearful oppressions on the laborers; nay, their rudeness is sometimes shown to gentlemen of the neighbourhood.

DACCA PRAKASH.

27. The same paper agrees with the Lieutenant-Governor in considering that the public are at present put to extreme inconvenience from the delay generally made in enforcing the decrees of civil courts. The proposal, however, made by His Honor to create a new and separate establishment in every district court for facilitating this work, may, if carried out, obviate some of the difficulties that beset it in the present time. But others will arise, in the shape of increased costs, and the greater distance which in most cases suitors will be obliged to travel to be able to file their petitions in the district court. For these reasons, the editor would suggest that, instead of being located in the head-quarters of a district, the proposed department be placed under the additional moonsifs whom His Honor has proposed to appoint to the post of civil court ameen. This suggestion, if acted upon, will remove all difficulties.

SOMA PRAKASH,
March 6th, 1876.

28. The *Soma Prakásh*, of the 6th March, makes the following observations in its opening editorial, headed "Whether the British Government is civilized or uncivilized." An attempt to answer this question naturally leads us to the consideration of another, viz., whether the policy pursued by the British in their administration of India, is one worthy of a civilized nation, and consonant with the principles of high morality. We

shall show that, though the policy is in the main an enlightened one, yet there are instances in which it appears to be the contrary. As an instance of the enlightened policy of Government, one need only bear in mind the British system of collecting the revenue, the noble treatment by Government of the various races inhabiting India, its efforts to suppress scarcity and famine, and the establishment of educational and charitable institutions; and as instances of an opposite policy should be considered the following—the disarming of the natives, depriving native princes of their independence, keeping back the children of the soil from all high appointments under its disposal, and the salt and opium monopoly enjoyed by Government. These points are then briefly dwelt upon. The order and method that prevail in the department of finance are simply wonderful. Without the slightest oppression, disorder, or outrage of any sort,—constant occurrences during the Mahomedan rule,—this vast machinery is quietly worked. Government pursues a truly liberal policy in regard to the various subject races of India. Under any other rule, the murder of Chief Justice Norman and Lord Mayo would have probably brought about the utter extermination of the Mahomedan race from India. But instead of showing the least vindictiveness in its conduct, the British Government inquired into the cause of dissatisfaction, and have sought to remove it to the best of their power. Unlike the Mahomedans, the British Government is active in suppressing famines; and, to remove the scarcity of food-supply, it is carrying out vast irrigation projects, the construction of light railways, and the excavation of canals all over the country. The policy followed by Government, in the matter of education and the charitable medical treatment of its subjects, is, without doubt, one worthy of a civilized nation. But it is to be regretted that Government is not so liberal in its dealings with the native princes of India. There are more instances than one of native princes being deprived of their possessions and subjected to unmerited punishments and insults. Such conduct is not certainly warranted by sound statesmanship. Whatever good deeds may be performed by the British in future, their treatment of the native princes will remain a lasting blot on their Indian administration, and be indelibly engraved on the pages of history. The children of the soil have been kept back from all high appointments under Government, and their interests are constantly sacrificed to those of Manchester. The British cannot boast of governing India for the good of the natives. The monopoly in the opium trade is extremely immoral; while that of salt presses heavily on the poor, who might, in case of competition, buy a necessary article of daily consumption at a far cheaper rate than at present.

29. The same paper is exceedingly thankful to Lord Northbrook for his strong advocacy of the interests of India against the efforts of the Manchester merchants. He has been baffled in the contest, and hence his resignation. We should, however, be grateful to him for his noble exertions in our behalf.

30. A correspondent of the same paper dwells on the superficial and unsatisfactory kind of education imparted by Government to the wards under their guardianship, and their rigorous treatment during the period of their tutelage. In view of these, the extension of the period of minority under the Majority Act is regarded with great concern by the parties interested in the institution.

31. The *Sahachar*, of the 6th March, dwells, in a lengthy editorial, on the oppressions of the police, and the indifference manifested by the

SOMA PRAKASH,
March 8th, 1876.

SOMA PRAKASH.

SAHACHAR,
March 6th, 1876.

higher authorities to check them. The Police—and the Railway Police is also included—is utterly inefficient to prevent and detect crimes, but is remarkably proficient in tyrannizing over innocent persons. Its oppressions have become intolerable. Sir Richard Temple is asked to appoint a commission to inquire into the oppressions of the police. The editor then refers to the recent case of assault on the members of the respectable Ghosal family of College Square, and asks Sir Stuart Hogg to make a searching inquiry into the matter, as the decision of the Magistrate has produced extreme dissatisfaction.

SAHACHAR,
March 6th, 1876.

32. The same paper exhorts his countrymen to make a protest against the Presidency Magistrates Bill without delay. The Magistrates will be given large and dangerous powers if this Bill becomes law. There is no need for it, unless it be to reduce the work of the High Court Judges. An invidious and undesirable distinction is made between the Mofussil and the Presidency Magistrates.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
March 7th, 1876.

33. The *Sulabha Samáchár*, of the 7th March, directs the attention of Government to the wretched stuff given as medicine to the poor patients in the charitable dispensaries. The latter should be supplied with fresh and genuine medicines.

SULABHA SAMACHAR.

34. The same paper, commenting on the constant oppression of the police, and especially in the recent case in College Square, asks Sir Stuart Hogg to make a personal inquiry into this matter. The decision of the Magistrate has produced extreme dissatisfaction among the people.

SAPTAHIK SAMACHAR,
March 7th, 1876.

35. The *Sáptáhik Samáchár*, of the 7th March, makes observations similar to the above on the same subject.

SAPTAHIK SAMACHAR.

36. The same paper does not see the need of the Ordinance recently promulgated by the Government of India respecting certain dramatic performances. This measure will only add to the already extensive and dangerous powers of the police. It is indeed desirable to maintain the purity of the stage; and, as this object could be fully attained by the existing provisions of the Indian Penal Code, there was no need whatever of any special legislation for the purpose.

SAMBAD PRABHAKAR,
March 4th, 1876.

37. The *Sambád Prabhákár*, of the 4th March, dwells on the unsatisfactory decision given by the Police Magistrate in the recent case of assault in College Square, and makes remarks similar to those of the *Sulabha Samáchár*.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 11th March 1876.

JOHN ROBINSON,
Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the
11th March, 1876.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	" Burrusal Vártávaha"	Burrusal	Weekly ...	16th and 23rd February 1876.
2	" Rungpore Dik Prakásh"	Kákiniá, Rungpore ...	Ditto ...	24th February 1876.
3	" Burdwan Pracháriká"	Burdwan	Ditto ...	25th February and 3rd March 1876.
4	" Sádháraní" ...	Chinsurah	Ditto ...	27th February and 5th March 1876.
5	" Suhrid" ...	Muktágáchá, Mymensing	Ditto ...	29th February 1876.
6	" Sáptáhik Samáchár"	Calcutta	Ditto ...	29th February and 7th March 1876.
7	" Hindu Ranjiká"	Bauleah, Rájshahye ...	Ditto ...	1st March 1876.
8	" Bhárat Mihir"	Mymensing	Ditto ...	1st ditto.
9	" Amrita Bazar Patriká"	Calcutta	Ditto ...	2nd ditto.
10	" Education Gazette"	Hooghly	Ditto ...	3rd ditto.
11	" Bhárat Sangskárák"	Harinávi, 24-Pergunnahs	Ditto ...	3rd ditto.
12	" Grámbártá Prakáshiká"	Comercolly	Ditto ...	4th ditto.
13	" Hindu Hitoishini"	Dacca	Ditto ...	4th ditto.
14	" Dacca Prakásh" ...	Ditto	Ditto ...	5th ditto.
15	" Soma Prakásh" ...	Chingripotá, 24-Perghs.	Ditto ...	6th ditto.
16	" Sahachar" ...	Calcutta	Ditto ...	6th ditto.
17	" Sulabha Samáchár"	Ditto	Ditto ...	7th ditto.
18	" Sambád Prabhákar"	Ditto	Daily ...	26th February to 4th March 1876.
19	" Sambád Púrnachandrodaya"	Ditto	Ditto ...	4th to 7th March 1876.
20	" Jám-Jehán-numá" (in Persian) ...	Ditto	Weekly ...	3rd and 10th March 1876.
21	" Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Ditto	Ditto ...	4th March 1876.
22	" Behár Bandhu" (in Hindi)	Bankipore	Ditto ...	8th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.

